

8

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L     R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968

---cOo---



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-

D. McGOWAN

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Medical Officer of Health  
Somerset House, Oxford Street,  
Weston-super-Mare.  
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J. H. Ellis

Chief Public Health Inspector  
Certificate of R.S.I. and  
S.I.E.J.B. Certificate of  
R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat  
and other Foods.

W. HIGHAM

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector  
Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland)  
Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland  
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D. GRANTLEY SMITH


District Public Health Inspector  
Certificate of R.S.I. and  
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R. T. BARRON

District Public Health Inspector  
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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1968

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, and the work of the Public Health Department in 1968.

The outstanding event of the year was the flooding which took place in many parts of the District following the extremely heavy rainfall which occurred on July 10th - 11th. I cannot do better in describing the events of this night than by reproducing the Report prepared by Mr. F. K. C. Adams, the Clerk to the Council, for the Finance Committee at this time.

The Report is given here as an Appendix.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Ellis, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and the other Inspectors for their help and co-operation during the year.

I would also thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the Officers and Staff of other Departments for their advice and assistance.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

D. McGOWAN

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1969.

# SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

## General Statistics

Area of District	90,956 acres
Population: 1931 Census	22,076
" 1951 "	26,535
" 1961 "	30,796
Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1968	37,030
Rateable Value (1.4.69)	£1,405,754
Number of Inhabited Houses	12,192

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for Year 1968

### LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	272	245	517
Illegitimate	13	14	27
	<u>285</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>544</u>

LIVE BIRTHS RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 14.7

CORRECTED BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.15) = 16.9

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS: (per cent of total live births) = 5.0%

### STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	2	-	2
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>

STILL BIRTH RATE: (Per 1,000 live and still births) = 14.5

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 552

INFANT DEATHS: (Deaths under 1 year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	7	1	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>

### INFANT MORTALITY RATES

TOTAL INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 live births) = 14.7

LEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 Legitimate live births) = 15.6

ILLEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 Illegitimate Live births) = Nil

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) = 12.9

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) = 11.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) = 25.4

MATERNAL DEATHS = Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live and still births) = Nil



DEATHS

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
272	206	478

UNCORRECTED DEATH RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 12.9

CORRECTED DEATH RATE: (comparability Factor 0.97) = 12.5

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 544 (285 boys and 259 girls), this being 39 births more than in 1967. Of these births 27 were illegitimate.

The uncorrected birth rate for 1968 was 14.7 and when the comparability factor (1.15) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 16.9 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 18.8 in 1967. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1968 was 16.9.

BIRTH RATES

<u>Year</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
England and Wales	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.1	17.7	17.2	16.9
Axbridge Rural District	14.9	18.0	15.2	18.8	18.1	19.0	19.9	18.5	18.8	16.9

STILL BIRTHS

The registered number of still births in 1968 was 8 of which two were illegitimate, thus giving a still birth rate of 14.5 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Registrar General was 478 (272 males and 206 females). This is 105 more than in 1967 and gives an uncorrected death rate of 12.9. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the death rate was 12.5 per 1,000 of total population compared with 11.9 for England and Wales as a whole.

For many years, the Registrar General has used the short list of 36 causes in classifying causes of death for the purpose of Annual Reports. This year, a new scheme was started, breaking down the causes of death to 65. In the table, where there were no deaths in the District due to any particular cause, these causes have been omitted.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1968.

INFANT MORTALITY

Eight children (7 boys and 1 girl) under the age of one year, died in 1968. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 14.7 per 1,000 live births.

CAUSES OF DEATH

		SEX	Total all Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 & under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Enteritis & other diarrhoeal diseases	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	8	4
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	M	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	7	11	6
	F	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	8	8
Benign and un- specified Neoplasms	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Endocrine, etc. diseases	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mental Disorders	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc	M	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	20	25	25
	F	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	12	32
Other forms of Heart Disease	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	8
	F	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	9	23
	F	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	8	35
Other Diseases of Circulatory system	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	3
	F	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	11

CAUSES OF DEATH (contd.)	SEX	Total all Ages	Under 4 4 Weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Asthma	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Peptic Ulcer	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Diseases of Musculo- Skeletal System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital Anomalies	M	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, difficult Labour etc.	M	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill- defined conditions	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
All other Accidents	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Suicide and Self- inflicted Injuries	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other External causes	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL all causes</u>	M	272	6	1	2	2	2	1	4	13	49	90	102
	F	206	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	15	42	136
		478	7	1	2	2	2	1	7	22	64	132	238



## WATER SUPPLIES

No shortage of water supplies was reported from any part of the District in 1968.

Every Parish has a piped main water supply and 12,100 houses are supplied directly in this way by the Bristol Waterworks Company. However, although every parish has a main water supply, not every house can be supplied directly from the mains and there are still 92 houses in the District relying on other sources. Three are supplied from a main water standpipe, fifty-seven depend on wells, twenty-two on springs and ten depend on collected rain water. During the year three wells were closed.

Bacteriological and chemical sampling of public supplies is carried out by the Bristol Waterworks Company, but some individual sampling is also done by the Council's Public Health Department. The results of such sampling are given in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

During the floods of July, 1968, there was a danger of possible contamination of public water supplies in several parts of the District, and there was close co-operation between the Bristol Waterworks Company and the Public Health Department during this period. The Somerset Police were of great help in providing loud-speaker cars to tour effected areas warning householders to boil water before using it.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During 1968, the Sandford Road and Parsons Way sewer extensions at Winscombe were completed at a cost of £4,700.

Future proposals are :-

- (a) Banwell to Langford - Phases 2 & 3, serving Churchill and Lower Langford -  
Approximate cost : £189,000.
- (b) Kewstoke, including Sand Bay -  
Approximate cost : £200,000.
- (c) Compton Bishop, Cross Area -  
Approximate cost : £14,000.

The following Parishes in the District have main drainage and sewage disposal systems :

Axbridge, Banwell (sewage disposal affected by new proposals), Berrow, Bleadon, Brean, Brent Knoll (small part), Cheddar, Congresbury, Hutton, Kewstoke (small part), Locking, Mark (small part), Shipham (part), Wedmore, Winscombe and Wrington.



HOUSING

	<u>New Houses built by</u>	
	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Private Enterprise</u>
1957	112	124
1958	34	145
1959	11	181
1960	9	284
1961	8	290
1962	29	247
1963	25	296
1964	24	444
1965	62	434
1966	17	328
1967	38	333
1968	27	460
	<u>396</u>	<u>3,566</u>

During the year 27 houses were built by the Local Authority, bringing the total number of houses owned by the District Council to 1,790. At the end of the year there were 416 applicants for Council housing compared with 519 in December, 1967. Of these 416 applicants, 141 were considered to be urgent cases and 179 were applicants for Old People's Dwellings. In 1968 460 houses were built by private enterprise.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968, came into force at the beginning of October. Six diseases were deleted from the list of notifiable diseases, and three were added - tetanus, yellow fever and leptospirosis (rat-bite fever). Infective jaundice (which caused so much trouble in the Blagdon area in 1967) was made notifiable in June, 1968.

The following Table shows the notification of infective diseases in the District during the year:-

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>Total Cases notified</u>
Measles	280
Dysentery (amoebic or bacillary)	-
Scarlet Fever	9
Whooping Cough	28
Infective Jaundice	2
Tuberculosis (a) Respiratory	1
(b) Meninges & C.N.S.	-
(c) Other forms	-
Diphtheria	-
Tetanus	-
Acute Meningitis	-
Acute Encephalitis (a) Infective	-
(b) Post Infectious	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (a) Paralytic	-
(b) Non-paralytic	-
Leptospirosis	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Typhoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	10
Malaria	-
Leprosy	-
Erysipelas	1

## LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The County Council, as the Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision of a number of personal Health Services, mainly connected with maternity and child welfare, the School Health Service and mental health.

Child Welfare Clinics are held in twelve Villages in the District. In 1966 a scheme of "attachment" of District Nurses to the practices of general medical practitioners was started and is proving most successful.

## HOSPITAL SERVICES

For a number of years now, in the Annual Report, I have been reporting the progress, or should I call it the lack of progress, of the building of a new Hospital for the Area. The building of Phase I, the Maternity Unit, was expected to start in 1969 - 1970, but once more it was postponed, this time until after 1972.



Extract from Minutes of Meeting of Standing Sub-Committee held on 15th July, 1968.

FLOODS 1968

" There follow the Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Sub-Committee  
" held on 15th July, 1968, but as the occasion for the meeting was one for  
" which there was no precedent and of which it is to be hoped there will be  
" no repetition, a preliminary note for the record seems to be not inappropriate.

" On Wednesday, 10th July, there was heavy rain all day which intensified  
" during the evening. It is believed that 5 inches was recorded in 12 hours.  
" The result was that in the parts of the District nearest to the hills,  
" normally small watercourses rapidly became torrents and walls of water found  
" new courses across normally dry land. Houses, shops, farms and workshops  
" were quickly flooded to depths varying from six inches to as many feet and  
" more. The rush of water was such that great damage was done, not only to  
" buildings, but to fields, gardens and roads. The most spectacular damage  
" was in Cheddar where water penned back at Charterhouse, broke through and  
" rushed down Velvet Bottom and Black Rock, coming down the Gorge with  
" sufficient force to tear holes many feet wide and deep at the sides of the  
" road, before going down the swollen river into the village. The situation  
" at Congresbury was similar, where the swollen Yeo, having swept through  
" Langford, spilled over its banks and rushed through the Village, entering  
" buildings without any hindrance. The brooks at Wedmore and Blackford also  
" rose to incredible heights; indeed Blackford, for its size, was probably  
" the place hardest hit. As communications were restored on the following and  
" subsequent days, reports of damage and inconvenience to a greater or less  
" degree came in from Axbridge, Banwell, Blagdon, Burrington, Butcombe, Cheddar,  
" Churchill, Compton Bishop, Congresbury, East Brent, Loxton, Weare, Wedmore,  
" Winscombe and Wrington.

" The services of the Council were in demand from the beginning.  
" The night telephone was ringing from the close of business on Wednesday,  
" until 1.30 a.m., and started again at 4.45 a.m. on Thursday. Many of the  
" calls were for the Highways Department and other services, but it rapidly  
" became clear that the technical departments would be fully occupied in  
" maintaining their normal services as far as consistent with giving urgent  
" assistance. Administrative and technical decisions were accordingly taken  
" as befitted the emergency.

" By the morning of Monday, 15th July, things had settled down suffi-  
" ciently for a conference of the Chief Officers to be combined with a meeting of  
" the Standing Sub-Committee when the situation was reviewed, the actions taken  
" by the Officers were ratified and authority was given for further actions and  
" expenditure. The Standing Sub-Committee was called, as the Civil Protection  
" Emergency Committee was not re-appointed at the last Annual Meeting pending a  
" decision on the continuance of some form of Civil Protection.

" At this meeting the Medical Officer reported on the action he had  
" taken to secure the purity of water supplies and to deal with contaminated  
" food stuffs. As the Axbridge Tip was inaccessible, he had arranged for refuse  
" to be disposed of at Weston, to secure that routine collections were not  
" interrupted and that accumulations of flood damaged goods were avoided. The  
" Surveyor reported on inspections of the sewage pumping stations and disposal  
" works and other installations of the Council, which were in most cases  
" functioning satisfactorily. He outlined the repairs which might be necessary.  
" A more detailed report was subsequently presented to the Works Committee.  
" The Housing Manager gave details of the effects of the floods on the  
" Council's property and on the relatively few cases in which people had been  
" rendered permanently homeless. Surprisingly the houses most affected were  
" in Woodborough Crescent, Winscombe, where eight houses well away from any  
" watercourse, were flooded to a depth of 3 - 4 feet. As will be seen from the  
" Minutes, the Sub-Committee approved the actions so far taken by the Officers  
" and gave them authority to continue on the same lines.

" The Sub-Committee was concerned as to the cost of relief work and  
" restoration. It approved the suggestion of the Treasurer that the product  
" of a penny rate (£5,420) should be earmarked to cover immediate expenditure,



" one half to be used for repair and restoration of the Council's own  
" installations and the remainder on emergency services to the public. The  
" Sub-Committee gave careful thought to the launching of a District Relief  
" Fund, but decided to advise the Chairman that it would be preferable to  
" keep the number of funds to a minimum and that accordingly local people  
" should be advised to support the County Appeal. When it was subsequently  
" discovered that the County Fund would not deal with individual cases but  
" would contribute to local funds, and that government help would only be  
" distributed through such funds, the Chairman decided to launch a District  
" Appeal. A statement is attached showing the state of the Fund and of the  
" claims as at 1st August.

" Certain general conclusions can be drawn from the events of the  
" last three weeks.

" The first is that the Parish is a vital unit in rural government.  
" It was clearly impossible for the District Council with its limited resources  
" in manpower to organise relief work in all the affected Parishes. The  
" initiative and community spirit shown in the worst affected places by the  
" Parish Councils under their Chairmen was outstanding. It is unfortunate that  
" the preparation of civil emergency plans was interrupted at a stage when  
" parishes were to be invited to prepare formal plans but except possibly in  
" the matter of channels of communication, this did not hinder the exercise  
" of local initiative. The attention of the Local Government Commission  
" might well be drawn to this aspect of the incident.

" The second is that the spirit of neighbourliness and self help is  
" still very much alive. The Council has no official knowledge of the  
" assistance given by neighbours but acknowledgment should be made of the  
" immediate reaction of the W.R.V.S. and of the ready response of the R.A.F.  
" Station at Locking to an appeal for assistance. Apart from providing  
" accommodation for people temporarily displaced from the Old People's  
" Bungalows at Winscombe, Sidcot School provided volunteers to help in  
" cleaning up, as did Sexey's School, the Kings of Wessex School and Churchill  
" Secondary School.

" The third is that the statutory services, such as the Police and  
" Fire Brigade, were equal to the strain imposed on them. The response of  
" the Council's own officers and employees was most gratifying. They and  
" the Highways Department did excellent work in maintaining normal services  
" as well as undertaking urgent works of repair and replacement. The  
" considerable problems of refuse disposal were tackled without hesitation  
" and telephone calls were dealt with efficiently under trying conditions.

" This incident will give rise to considerable discussion on the  
" value of a volunteer civil protection organisation. It is doubtful if  
" such an organisation would ever be in sufficient strength to avoid the  
" need for voluntary effort by members of the public, but there is no  
" doubt that a parish organisation with recognised channels of communication  
" to the District Council would be advantageous. "

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1968:

HOUSING

The following tables indicate the progress made during the year in dealing with sub-standard houses:-

Discretionary Improvement Grants

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1967	590 applications (657 dwellings)	573 applications (638 dwellings)	17 applications (19 dwellings)
Applications dealt with during 1968	18 applications (19 dwellings)	18 applications (19 dwellings)	Nil
Position at 31st December, 1968	608 applications (676 dwellings)	591 applications (657 dwellings)	17 applications (19 dwellings)

Standard Improvement Grants

	<u>Applications Received</u>	<u>Applications Approved</u>	<u>Applications Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1967	189	181	8
Applications dealt with during 1968	20	20	-
Position at 31st December, 1968	209	201	8

Rural Housing Survey

During the year 35 surveyed houses were made fit compared with 31 in 1967. 8 houses were demolished or closed during the year. The summary of categories, revised to December, 1968, is as follows:-

Number of properties satisfactory in all respects 1,199  
(Category 1)

Number of properties with minor defects 515  
(Category 2)



Number of Properties requiring major repair of structural alterations (Category 3)	1,973
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Number of Properties unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost (Category 5)	172
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Statutory Action under the Provisions of  
the Housing Acts

During the year, statutory action under the provisions of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, was instituted in respect of 13 dwellings. The result of such action is summarised as follows:-

Cases under consideration at 31.12.67	18
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During 1968

Demolition Orders made	2
Closing Orders made	3
Undertakings accepted not to use premises for human habitation until made fit	9
Undertakings accepted to make premises fit	3
Cases under consideration at 31.12.68	14

OVERCROWDING

On the 31st December, 1968, there were no cases of statutory overcrowding on the Register.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

A.	Number of licensed caravan sites ( more than one caravan)	(a) Residential	7
		(b) Holiday	64
	Total number of caravans permitted on these sites	(a) Residential	392
		(b) Holiday	3,086
B.	Number of licensed caravan sites (single caravans)	(a) Residential	16
		(b) Holiday	6
C.	Number of tented sites licensed during the year		9
	Number of tents permitted on these sites		523



## FOOD PREMISES

Details of the number of routine inspections of food premises are given in the summary at the end of this report.

No statutory proceedings were instituted during the year.

Particulars of the various types of food premises in the District are given below:-

<u>Food Premises in Area</u> <u>(excluding registered</u> <u>dairy premises)</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>premises</u>	<u>Fitted to</u> <u>comply with</u> <u>Reg. 16</u>	<u>To which</u> <u>Reg.19</u> <u>applies</u>	<u>Fitted to</u> <u>comply with</u> <u>Reg. 19</u>
--	----------------------------------	--	--	--

### A. Food Manufacturing Premises

Edible Fat Refineries	2	2	2	2
Cheese Straw Factory	1	1	1	1
Cheese Factories	3	3	3	3
Bakers	8	8	8	8

### B. Retail Shops

Grocers	145	145	-	-
Confectioners	40	40	-	-
Butchers	22	22	22	22
Fishmongers & Greengrocers (combined)	5	5	5	5
Greengrocers	13	13	-	-
Dairies	3	3	3	3

### C. Catering Premises (including school meals & licensed premises)

181	180	181	181
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### D. Premises registered under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 (excluding premises used for the Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice Cream)

Sausage making	15	15	15	15
Fish Frying	5	5	5	5

### E. MILK AND DAIRIES

Registered Dairies	7
Number of Milk Distributors	90

## ICE CREAM

The Ice Cream manufactured in the District is manufactured in accordance with the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952 in a preparation room which has been specially adapted for the purpose.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream (complete cold mix)	1
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Number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream	207
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## WATER SUPPLIES

The following is a summary of the results of the bacteriological examination of the monthly water samples taken from the public supplies. All these supplies are chlorinated:-

	<u>Probable No. of Coliform</u> <u>Bacilli MacConkey 2 days</u> <u>37°C</u>			
	<u>0 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>1 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>5 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>25 per 100 ml.</u>
Cheddar and Axbridge	12 samples			
South Mendip (Cross)	11 samples		1 sample	
South Mendip (Dunyeatt)	11 samples			1 sample
North Mendip (Rowberrow)	12 samples			
Burrington	12 samples			
Twin Brook Adit (use suspended following July floods)	6 samples			
Blagdon	11 samples	1 sample		
Kewstoke	12 samples			
North Mendip (Chelvey)	12 samples			
	<u>99 samples</u>	<u>1 sample</u>	<u>1 sample</u>	<u>1 sample</u>

A sample of water from each of the above supplies were submitted for chemical analysis during the year. All these samples were reported upon by the Analyst as being free from plumbo-solvency or other harmful contamination.

38 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from private premises not receiving a supply from the public mains. 14 of these samples proved to be unsatisfactory. 3 houses were provided with a supply of water from the public main in substitution for a supply from a private source.

## UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

(Excluding meat at Slaughterhouses)

Meat at retail premises	- 14 lbs.
Cooked meat and meat products	- 1 cwt. 15 lbs.
Canned Meats and Fish	- 4 cwt. 73 lbs.
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	- 6 cwt. 2 lbs.
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	- 2 cwts. 5 lbs.
Other foods	- 6 cwts. 17 lbs.

The sharp increase in the amount of food, other than canned foods, surrendered or condemned during the year is due to the large quantity of such food damaged in the July floods.



# MEAT INSPECTION

The two private slaughterhouses licensed in the District continued in operation throughout the year. In addition, a new licence was issued in respect of the Slaughterhouse at the Meat Research Institute at Langford.

There are no poultry processing establishments in the District.

The following table gives particulars of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	142	-	6	417	287	-
Number inspected	142	-	6	417	287	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	45	-	-	44	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	31.7	-	-	10.6	1.3	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs) for:-</u>						
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Cysticercosis	4	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	352 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	78	10	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	356 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	78	10	-



### CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Total number of septic tanks and settlement tanks emptied during the year	1,183
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### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The second of the three phases which will ultimately result in a weekly refuse collection throughout the District, was implemented during the year.

Increasing use was made of the special collection service for bulky refuse.

Number of Refuse Vehicles in operation	8 (+ 1 stand-by)
Estimated amount of refuse collected during the year	12,150 tons
Total amount of salvaged material disposed of during theyear:-	
(a) Rags	Tons Cwts Qrs £ s. d. 5 6 - 135. 3. 0.
(b) Non-ferrous metals	2 9 1 246. 5. 0.

### NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Two complaints of noise nuisance were received during the year one related to barking dogs in boarding kennels, and the other to a milking machine. In both cases the Council decided that no action was called for.

No. of complaints received	2
No. of complaints investigated	2
Total number of visits	4
Abatement Notices served	Nil

THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is a copy of the report submitted to the Minister of Labour for the year ending 31st December, 1968:-

A. Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during Year	Total No. of registered premises at end of Year	No. of registered premises receiving general inspections during Year
Offices	5	65	55
Retail Shops	13	148	148
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	-	9
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	-	43	37
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
Total :	18	265	249

B. Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises

340

C. Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Offices	306
Retail Shops	345
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	68
Catering establishments open to the public	192
Canteens	9
Fuel Storage Depots	-

Total :

920 } Males : 369  
Females: 551

D. Exemptions (relating to all classes of premises)

Space, Temperature, Sanitary Conveniences, Washing Facilities

No. of exemptions current at 31.12.68	Nil
No. of exemptions granted or extended during year	Nil
No. of applications refused or exemptions withdrawn during year	Nil
No. of cases where employees opposed application	Nil
No. of Appeals to Court made	Nil
No. of Appeals to Court allowed	Nil

E. Prosecutions

Prosecutions instituted of which the hearing was completed in the Year	Nil
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F. Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act

4

Number of other Staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act

Nil

SUPPLEMENT TO ANNUAL RETURN

on Form O.S.R.14 - Year ending 31.12.68

OVERCROWDING

No cases of overcrowding were found during the year and there were none outstanding from previous inspections.

TEMPERATURE

No new problem concerning temperature was encountered during the year.

ABSTRACTS

Special attention was directed during the year to ensuring that at all registered premises either a copy of the abstract of the Act was displayed or each employee had been provided with a summary of the Act.

It is interesting to note that, since the Act came into operation, only one complaint, relating to heating, has been received from an employee.

ACCIDENTS

Most of the accidents notified were of a minor character involving strains and bruises, due to careless handling of goods.

DEFECTS REMEDIED AS THE RESULT OF INFORMAL ACTION

Abstracts provided	83
Overcrowding abated	-
Heating improved	2
Ventilation improved	-
Thermometers provided	18
Lighting improved	2
Floor and steps repaired	-
Seating improved	1
Machine guarding improved	3
Staircase - handrails provided	2
First Aid Kits provided	17
Washing facilities provided or improved	4
Sanitary accommodation provided or improved	2

ACCIDENTS

Number of accidents reported	10
Number of accidents requiring investigation and investigated	3



RODENT CONTROL

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	<u>NON</u> <u>AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>
A. Total number of premises (including nearby properties) inspected following notifications	505	86
Number infested by (1) Rats	286	47
(2) Mice	12	Nil
B. Total number of properties inspected for rats and mice for reason other than notification	467	279
Number infested by (1) Rats	102	153
(2) Mice	1	Nil
C. Number of sewerage systems test baited		17
Number of sewerage systems needing treatment and treated for rat infestation		3
D. Number of Council owned properties (excluding Council Houses) treated for rat infestation		24
Number of treatments of Council owner properties for rat infestation		36

# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

## Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

### Part I of the Act

#### 1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions of health

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	108	153	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	3	3	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>

#### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>Number of cases</u> <u>in which prosecu-</u> <u>tions were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred:</u>		
			<u>To H.M.</u> <u>Insp.</u>	<u>By H.M.</u> <u>Insp.</u>	
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S2)	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	0	3	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS:	5	2	0	3	0

### PART VIII of the Act (Outwork (Sections 133 and 134))

<u>Section 133</u>				<u>Section 134</u>		
<u>No. of out- workers in August list required by Sec.133(1)(c)</u>	<u>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</u>	<u>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</u>	<u>No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises</u>	<u>Notices served</u>	<u>Prose- cutions</u>	
Dressing Dolls	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Glove Making	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All other Classifications	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY OR UNDER THE  
SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Total number of inspections made (including re-inspections)	4,336
Total number of houses and premises inspected	2,155

Number of inspections made of, and visits paid to:-

Dwelling houses	1,462
Food premises and Catering establishment (Food & Drugs Act)	751
Caravan Sites and Moveable Dwellings	635
Factories	160
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	340
Ice-Cream Premises	26
Dairies	31
Drainage Systems	244
Swill Boiling Plants	11
Agricultural Holdings	145
Premises as the result of complaints of nuisance	486
Premises in connection with water supplies	56
Tests of Swimming Bath Water	62
Investigations into cases of Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	37
Premises, disinfested or disinfected	18
Drain tests of Drainage Systems believed to be defective	29
Smoke observations	Nil
Samples of faeces submitted for laboratory examination	17

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and the Medical Officer of Health, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. ELLIS

Chief Public Health  
Inspector.



